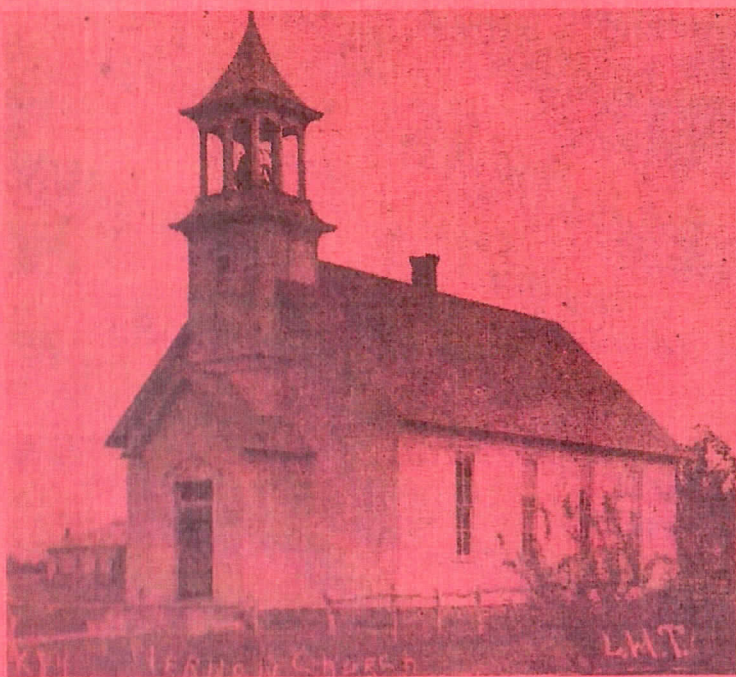


# IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 15 - No. 60

## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 15-No. 60

October, 1982

Lester A. Harding, Editor

### Editor's Notes—

Try as we may, it seems like errors creep into these pages, but seldom twice to one family as they did in the part about Elmer Stockebrand. His wife's name was Alice instead of Olive. And they had no son. Also omitted from the same article was the marriage of Louis E. Stockebrand, Jr., to Sue Roundtree. They had one son Scott.

Another error in the same article was that of Zelma Newman Lawless should have been Zelma Dutton Lawless.

\* \* \* \* \*

When we look in the upper left hand corner of this page and see that number 60, we can hardly realize that it has been 15 years since we started putting these 'little books' together. At times it has been quite a task, but from the many notes and work of encouragement perhaps it was worth all the work and worry. We feel that we have made many friends all over the United States. In The Beginning has gone to people in 28 states in the United States, also 40 towns and cities in Kansas and 15 towns and cities in California. It has also been sent to London, England, Australia, Canada and Italy.

\* \* \* \* \*

In this issue of In The Beginning we tell about three Centennials, namely the town of Piqua, The First Baptist Church in Yates Center and the Pleasant Valley School District No. 18. Each one of these held their celebration during the month of August, 1982.

\* \* \* \* \*

The subscription for "In The Beginning" will be the same for 1983-\$4.00 a year. By January 1, 1983, will be the time to renew.

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## IN THE BEGINNING

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\$4.00 per year

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Organized March, 1968

A special program was given at the regular July meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society. The special occasion was honoring Elmer F. Krueger for serving as Historical Society Treasurer for about 17 years before he had to resign because of ill health. Elmer was also one of the organizers and first chairman of the Woodson County Historical Society. Elmer's family, Richard and Jane Krueger and children, Carl, and Caroline of Shawnee Mission, Kans., and Miss Karen Krueger of Washington, D. C., were all present for this special occasion.

Elmer F. Krueger, his wife Leona and children Richard and Karen were all Charter members of the Woodson County Historical Society. Leona passed away in September, 1966.

\* \* \* \* \*

About the usual number of people have visited the Woodson County Historical Museum this summer.

An air-conditioner was installed at the start of the Museum season, which was no doubt appreciated by many.

\* \* \* \* \*

IN MEMORIAN —

William H. Jackson

102

June 26, 1982

Mr. Jackson was born in Woodson County, Oct. 16, 1879. He left the county in 1904 and returned in 1949. Up until about 3 years ago his mind was still a storehouse of stories and events that occurred in the county back many years ago. The editor went to Mr. Jackson for many events and dates beyond our memory. He was given an Honorable Membership in Woodson Co. Historical Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. Christina Mossman is the new Curator at the Museum.

\* \* \* \* \*

Join and Support the  
WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Life Membership \$25.00

Regular \$2.00 year

### **A.J. JONES and FAMILY —**

Albert Jerome Jones, better known as A.J. was one of the pioneer school teachers of Woodson County. A.J. Jones oldest son of Wm. S. and Martha Tyler Jones was born June 10, 1856 in Warren County, Indiana, and died in Yates Center, June 17, 1937.

The Wm. S. Jones family moved to Woodson County 1869, settling near Neosho Falls.



**Wm. S. Jones and wife Martha S. Tyler Jones.**

A.J. Jones, a pioneer teacher of Woodson County began his teaching career in 1874 near Neosho Falls at the age of 17 years. His pupils were many over the years he taught in rural schools and many years in Yates Center. Often third generations would go to school to him.

Teaching however was not his only profession as he began the study of law in the latter 1880's. He was admitted to the bar in 1890. A.J. served two years as Probate Judge and one term as County Attorney of Woodson County. He also served as City Clerk and City Attorney of Yates Center.

A.J. also had quite a military career. He started in as Second Lieutenant of Co. L, First Reg. Kansas National Guard. He was

later promoted to Captain and served in capacity in Co. L, for several years.

On March 1, 1882, A.J. Jones was married to Mimum (Minnie B.) Smith.

Their children were Zella Marjane born June 14, 1892 and Doris L., born in 1894.



**A.J. Jones and wife Mimum Smith Jones.**

After the death of Mimum Jones, Mr. Jones was married to Hancie (Naylor) VanVoorhiss. He had two step-children, Mrs. Earl Adams and Lonnie VanVoorhiss.



**A.J. Jones and Ira Gardner in their law office in Yates Center**



W.K. Stockebrand, left, presents Elmer Krueger with plaque.

## *Historical Society honors Krueger*

The Woodson County Historical Society honored Elmer Krueger for his many years of service to the club at their dinner meeting on July 27.

The club presented Krueger with an engraved plaque honoring him for his leadership. A cake with 17 candles signifying his years as treasurer of the organization was served as desert. The bottom tier of the cake was decorated with 90 tiny American flags to represent the 90 years the Krueger family has had a business on the square.

Along with 59 club members, members of Krueger's family were present.

Carl Harder was in charge of the program, assisted by Elaine Horsch, Lester Harding, Milton Stockebrand, Karen and Richard Krueger. Each person spoke on the various ways Elmer had contributed to the Historical Society.



## **THE FREDERICK Wm. MULSOW FAMILY —**

The Frederick Wm. Mulsow that we will shorten to F.W., was quite a prominent name in the Finney vicinity of northwest Woodson County for many years.

F.W. was born at Klinken Mecklenburg Schwerin, Germany, October 18, 1841. When just a boy he came to United States, with his parents, settling at Sandusky, Ohio. His parents were John and Sophia Harlbrecht Mulsow.

On October 17, 1870, F.W. Mulsow was married to Mary Jane Reel, whose parents were Samuel Jeremiah and Abbie McCalley Reel. Mary Jane was born July 27, 1851 at Tyron, Pennsylvania.

The Mulsow and Reel families all seemed to come to Kansas, settling around Baldwin and Lawrence, Kansas.

In the year 1900, the F.W. Mulsow family came to Woodson County settling on the farm six miles north and three west of Yates Center, with Turkey Creek running across a corner of it. It is still being farmed by a fourth generation of Mulsows.



**Picture of the F.W. Mulsow family taken in 1906**  
**From left to right, back row - Charles R, Fred, Oscar G., Walter F., John H., Front row, left to right - Irma I., Effie, Mother Mary Jane, Frederick W., Mary J., Sarah E. (Lizzie), with Nina in front.**

W.F. Mulsow came with his parents to Eudora, Kansas in 1857, and Mary Jane Reel, with her parents in 1860.

W.F. and Mary Jane were married in 1870. They were parents of ten children all born in the Eudora and Baldwin vicinity. Their children were:

Effie Josephine born August 4, 1871 - Died, Feb. 1, 1949.

John Harmon born February 1, 1873 - Died, May 27, 1965.

Walter Franklin born January 15, 1876 - Died, 1956.

Oscar Grinman born June 27, 1878 - Died Sept. 1956.

Frederick Wm. born October 6, 1882 - Died October 24, 1973.

Sarah Mellissa born February 28, 1886 - Died Feb. 25, 1972.

Mary Jane born February 12, 1888 - Died Sept. 17, 1953.

Charles Richard born May 31, 1889 - Died Nov. 22, 1970.

Irma Inger born July 4, 1891 - Died October 22, 1964.

Nina Dean born April 26, 1895 - Died Nov. 13, 1979.



**The ten Mulsow children of F.W. and Mary Jane Mulsow**  
**Back row, left to right. John H., Walter F., Oscar G., Frederick W., Charley R., front row - Effie J., Sarah M. (Lizzie), Mary Jane, Irma and Nina.**

It seems remarkable that a family this large all grew up in the same locality, each married local spouses with the exception of Frederick, who seemed to be the 'black sheep' of the family. Fred went away to college, attended a medical school and became a noted doctor of medicine in Iowa.



Effie J. Mulsow was born at Eudora, Kans., and came to Woodson County in 1900, with the family. Here she met and married George W. Stewart, Feb. 22, 1906. They spent their married life farming in the Finney and Burt communities. They were the parents of two children; Treesa Muriel, born April 25, 1910; and Verne Orville, born Jan. 22, 1912, and died August 28, 1915. Treesa married Glen Reno. They were the parents of two daughters, Delores and Sharon.

John H., married Amelia Ella Harrison, Dec. 21, 1904, at Iola. Their entire married life was on a farm around a mile south of the old Burt Store. Their two daughters were, Marian Josephine, born June 26, 1908, and Blanche Pauline, born Jan. 21, 1911. Blanche married Russell Elliot.

Walter F., married Jody May Galemore, Jan. 7, 1909. They were parents of four children; Lester William, born March 15, 1910. Lester married Alice Feller; Leota Irene was born Feb. 4, 1912 and died Nov. 21, 1976, Leota taught over 30 years in Woodson Co. rural schools. Merton Roy, born Feb. 4, 1912 and died Nov. 21, 1976. Merton was married to Lois Endsley. Clara May was born No. 10, 1919, Clara was married to Eugene Davis.

Oscar G., was married to Alta Belle Old Feb. 23, 1908. They had no children of their own, but took Jamie L. Old to raise when he was two weeks old, when his mother died. Jamie's parents were Noah and Mabel (Gordon) Old. Jamie married Hazel Peek. O.G. and Alta operated the Burt Store for several years.

Frederick Wm. married Maude Aileen Emery, June 28, 1923. As was mentioned Dr. Fred was the only one of the family that did not stay in the community on a farm. He lived for some time at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he practiced medicine. He was also a teacher at the University of Chicago.

Sarah Melissa, or better known by the name of Lizzie, married Warren F. Arnold on June 9, 1907. They lived on the Arnold homestead for years before moving to near Jasper, Mo. They were the parents of five children namely; Asa Stottlar was born June 22, 1908. He married Merle Parks.

Helen Sheila was born Mar. 1, 1910. Helen was married to Earl Jones. Later she was married to Walter Bowers. Lyle Alfred was born Aug. 29, 1912. Lyle married Doris French. Ray Kenneth was born Oct. 11, 1915. Ray married Edith Budd. Frederick Warren, was born July 11, 1920. Frederick married Marj McLaughlin.

Mary Jane was married to Archie Wells, Nov. 26, 1911. They were parents of seven children - Myrnice Ethel, born April 16, 1915. Myrnice married Hadley Stranghoner. Myrtle Iris, born Dec. 11, 1917. Myrtle married Phillip Brodmerkle. Leila Eunice

born April 18, 1919, died Dec. 14, 1919. Lyla Voncile, born Oct. 11, 1920. Lyla married Robert Oswald. Clea Eula, born Jan. 5, 1922, died July 2, 1922. Roy Eugene, born Jan. 18, 1924, died June, 1924. Vanessa Joy, born Oct. 22, 1925. Vanessa married Ted Gould.

Charles Richard was married to Amanda Anna Elma Weide, Feb. 24, 1920. Their children were, Kathryn Mae born Dec. 22, 1920, and died May 13, 1977. Kathryn married James Boyd. Richard Charles born Feb. 8, 1922. Richard married Ruth Trost. Evelyn Theresa, born Aug. 13, 1923. Evelyn married William E. Steiner. Loyd Frederick, born June 27, 1925. Loyd married Gloris Dale. Neva Earline born Sept. 29, 1926. Neva never married. She died June 14, 1973. (Incidentally it was Neva that first compiled the most of the Mulsow story as we have it. That was in 1967.)

Irma Inger was married to Amil H. Light on Feb. 28, 1912. They were parents of three daughters namely; Mildred Edith, born Dec. 18, 1912, Mildred married Alfred W. Opperman. Hilda Mary, born Sept. 7, 1920. Hilda never married. She has been City Clerk of Yates Center for many years. Virginia Joyce, born Mar. 14, 1928. Virginia married Earl Louderbaugh.

Nina Dean was married to Clarence J. Steel on Feb. 20, 1916. Their children were - Leona Mabel, born July 10, 1917. Leona married Clifford Williams. Kenneth Everett born May 14, 1919. Kenneth married Ellen Dutro. Hazel Dean born Feb. 4, 1921. Hazel never married. She has worked for the Union Gas System for many years. Clarence Elvin, born Dec. 28, 1922, died Jan. 1, 1923. Luetta Mae was married to Laddie Havlick.

On a Saturday afternoon on June 2, 1919, Frederick Wm. Mulsow was driving a team of horses hitched to a top buggy along the road in the bend of Turkey Creek just over a half mile north of the Mulsow home when the team evidently became frightened and ran away, tipping the buggy and throwing him out on his head. He was picked up unconscious and taken home. He died on Monday without regaining consciousness. He was 77 years and 7 months old.

F.W. Mulsow, his wife Mary Jane, and nine of their children and their spouses are all buried in the Askren Cemetery. The only exception is their son Fred who is buried in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Amanda Weide Mulsow at the age of 90, is the only one living of this group.

Of these ten Mulsow children, John lived to be the oldest reaching the age of 92 years, 3 months, while Mary Jane the youngest at age 65 years and 7 months.

There have been five generations living on the farm the Mulsows came in 1900. F.W. Mulsow, son Charles, grandson Richard, great-grandson Daniel and great-great-granddaughters, Amanda and Melissa Mulsow.

## HISTORY OF BAYLESS SCHOOL DIST. NO. 55

The story of the early history of the Bayless School District No. 55 has been given by the following: Mrs. Effie Phillips of Yates Center, Kansas, Mrs. Jessie Bayless Staver, Boone, Colorado and Mr. D.A. Ireland of Yates Center, Kansas.

The first settlers of this community were mostly the Eastern people and the following settled here in 1882: General Clapp, who passed away soon after settling here, was the first person buried in the Yates Center Cemetery. J.F. Bayless, in whose honor the school was named, Mr. Collins, Silas Baker, Rutledge Bros. Mr. Milton Phillips who lived where Mr. Taylor now lives, and others.

The people came to this community because of free range and the streams of water. They always had plenty of water. They came in wagons.

This school was organized in 1878 or 79 and Mr. A.F. Palmer was the County Superintendent of Woodson County at that time.

At this time they had Union Sunday School of which Mrs. Clapp was superintendent.

The Indians traveled through this community twice a year to get their supplies from Topeka, Kansas.

—By Mrs. Effie Phillips

My father and family settled on the farm now known as the Bayless farm in September 1881. The previous owner was a man by the name of Barnett. Other settlers in the community at this time were: C.C. Green, Wm. Jackson, Joe Kimler, Mrs. Mary Clapp, Mr. Collins, Chris Herold, Mr. Chellis and I presume there were others but I was so small I do not recollect their names. My father came from Iowa. Nationality, English and Scotch.

Access to more grazing of livestock was the principal reason for coming to this community. My father and brother came in a covered wagon and also drove several hundred head of sheep from Iowa. We women folks came on the train to Humboldt, Kansas as there were no trains passing through Yates Center.

The houses were very plain, were well built, as far as being durable but did not have much furniture just enough for absolute necessity.

The machinery was all operated by hand with the help of horses. Transportation was by horseback or wagons, we even walked one or two miles to visit a neighbor. The people were very friendly. Their clothing was of heavy material and the womens clothing especially was homemade. The majority of the food was produced on the farm.

Recreation was a small item, sometimes a party was held at one of the houses and quite often a dance was given.

Education at that time you were not classed in a certain grade but known by the reader you were in as 3rd, 4th or 5th, there you were placed in arithmetic, geography, etc. according to the reader. I knew several boys, especially who continued attending school until they were twenty years old or older.

The schoolhouse received its name because it was located on an acre of land donated by my father, J. F. Bayless. The first school building was located on the same site where the present building now stands.

In the early eighties the following families also settled in this community: Hiram Jeffries, S. E. Fergus, D. A. Ireland and John Harding. Others following later.

I left the community in 1903.

—Mrs. Jessie Bayless Staver

My father, mother and five children came from Missouri and landed where I now live, September 3rd, 1884. The land was then unimproved. I will now name the families that lived in the district. Hiram Jeffries came from Illinois in 1882 and located on what is now the farm owned by Mr. Beanway. Dare Galey lived on the Earl Gorman farm, Mr. Collins on the Marple Bros. place, S. E. Fergus on the Schooling place, Mrs. Clapp on the farm now owned by Mr. O'Neals. J. F. Bayless came from Iowa and located on what is now the Irvin place. Milt Phillips lived where Mr. Taylor lives.

The first school building is still standing on the Irvin farm known as the Bayless farm.

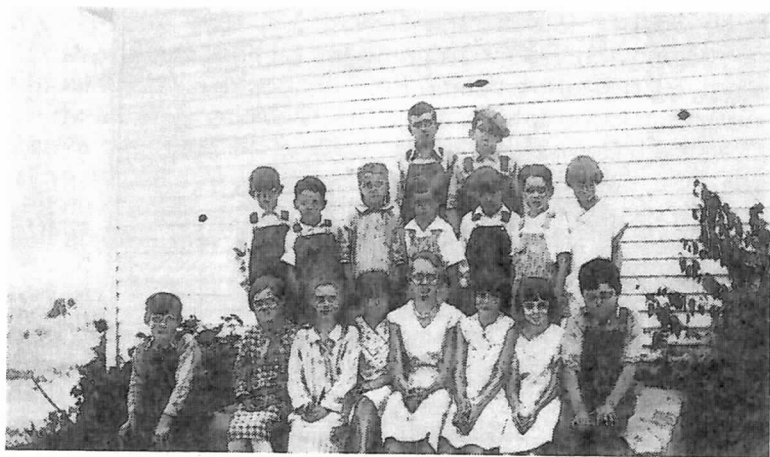
I think the present school building was built in 1888.

—Mr. D. A. Ireland

The above History of the Bayless, Dist. No. 55, was written somewhere around 1935. We do not have the first two or three teachers. The first one we have was the winter term of 1882. That teacher was Hancie Naylor, next in line were; M. P. Dutro, W. E. Borchin, Myron Rhea, G. K. Bideau, Jacob Ragle, Mrs. Mary Jones, L. N. Rutledge, Bessie Patterson, Bessie Bartlett, A. J. Huff, Bessie Patterson, Jessie Bartlett, Grace Smith, Laura Clugston, Belle Herdman, Cora Wilder, Molly Chellis, Hattie Parker, Mollie Chellis, Lela Shurtleff, Masia Young, Bess L. Irvine, Elma Davidson, Harold Gillette, Olive Boursfeld, Ruth McCormick, Maynie Irvine, two terms; Avice Eagle, 1918-19; Cecile Mentzer, two terms, Irene Willaby, Carrie Toedman, Ethel Whittaker, Helen Ireland, three terms; Elma Ireland, two terms, through term of 1928-29.

Starting with the 1929-30 term, Gertrude Sager taught two terms, followed by Barbara Schooling, who taught five terms. Mabel Toedman then taught six terms, followed by, Mrs. Clara Shephard, Mrs. Doris Studebaker, Mrs. Irma Smith. Ann Ireland taught the next six years to the last term of school of 1954-55.

The teachers term report of the year of 1913, was given by Harold Gillette to the Clerk of the District Board, J.W. Williams. Pupils attending that term were, Randolph, Francis, May and Mary Blount; Lester and Helen Ireland, Glen, Goldie, Edith and Harold Williams, Harry, Monroe, Robert and Mattie Whittaker; Glen Berry, Curtis and Clarence Williams, Lillie and Fern Shrauger, Sybil Sager, Fred, Francis, May and Mary Davis, Howard Gibbs and Scott Aughcal.



Pupils attending the Bayless School in 1934-35, as follows, front row; Paul Johnson, Lucille Roger, Edna Herold, Margaret Guenther, Donna Herold, Donna Easumm, Lee Dale Johnson. Center row; Lee Johnson Robert Herold, Elizebeth Roger, Allen Jr. Easum, Edward Kolb, Kenneth Guenther, Eva Mae Easum. The two boys in back row are; Bill Rogers and Clyde Johnson.

Mrs. Barbara Schooling Stockebrand taught this school from Fall of 1931 to Spring of 1936. Pupils going to Bayless during those years not pictured were; Tom Herold Richard and Kenneth Beanway, Wayne and Wilbur Hunt, Edna Schuerer, Melvin Smith, Leon Hayes.



The honor of being Grand Marshal of the 44th annual Woodson County 4-H Fair, went to Carl F. Harder who with his wife Erma, rode in the rumble seat of B. Gaulding's 1939 Ford.

Carl was born in Yates Center and has spent the greatest part of his life here. Carl was the oldest of three living sons of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harder.

Carl spent quite a lot of his years as a Peace Officer. He first served as Undersheriff, under Sheriff Carl Miller during 1931-32. Harder, then was elected for two terms as Sheriff of Woodson County, from 1933 through 1936. He then joined the Kansas Highway Patrol in 1937 and resigned from that position in 1956, after 20 years as patrolman, with time out for service in World War II.

In 1933, Carl F. Harder was married to Miss Erma Willis. They have one daughter Jody Harder Russell.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Harder are active members of the United Methodist Church at Yates Center and the Woodson County Historical Society.



REMINISCENCES — Portland, Ore., Jan. 21, 1920.

Editor News: —

It was with much interest that I read the reminiscences of old settlers rendered by our old friend and neighbor in your valuable paper. I wish to add a few instances that bound us in close ties of neighborly love. Although we are somewhat scattered over the prairies, and of late most of us have gone to that borne from whence no mortal traveler returns, but a few remain to tell the story. (This letter was written by Warren Miller to the News Editor, Richard Trueblood. These two were boyhood friends who only lived about a mile apart when they were boys and these events happened. Warren Miller was a correspondent for the Woodson County Post, printed at Neosho Falls in the 1870's.)

I am the son of J.C. Miller, located in distant Oregon. The hardships we were called upon to endure were the stepping stones of neighborly brotherhood. The devastating prairie fires that were a menace to us early settlers. They sometimes swept the homestead and left nothing but ashes, and a few instances the family included. I have been one of others that held the horses for a quick mount while our fathers were backfiring on the north side of Turkey Creek against a raging fire from the northwest, and should the fire leap the creek we must mount our horses and try to save our loved ones. Some people today do not realize how prairie fires ran with such rapidity, until we consider air heated by fire arises and makes room for heavier air which rushes in and prodes wind. Sometimes great forkfulls of grass will burn off at the ground and carried hundreds of feet before it will light a sheet of flames and start another fire, and so on, with increasing speed, showing no favors and asking no quarters.

Our houses were not of the best. Our house, having sand-rocks standing on edge between the studs, and some of them hanging out like the hanging walls of Babylon and sometimes they would fall and snakes would oft times climb up behind and peek out. In a neighborly way to see how we were faring.

Brother Reed's one room house on a claim north of ours had no finish, and 12 inch rough walnut boards for floor.

In cold days his good wife would sit on one side of their little cook stove with her feet in the oven and their children likewise on the other side, and poor Brother Reed would come out on the south side of the house in the sunshine and beat time to keep warm.

Lafe Weaden thought he was called to preach, but when a woman run him out with a broomstick, he concluded the wires must have been crossed.

In the fall of 1873, the grasshoppers came. There were a few sextillion, quadrillion, but most of them seemed to be imbued with the admonition of Horace Greely to go west and grow up with the country. Had they all stayed we would have been drowned in grasshoppers. In less than a half an hour our corn had turned black and was weighted to the ground with the black rascals. They were very unwelcome visitors except to the chickens, and they were soon suffering with a bursting crop. Well it goes without saying they ate everything, even knawed holes in pitchfork handles. Before they left they drilled the ground full of holes until it resembled a pepper box lid, and therein laid their eggs. We expected a big crop of hoppers the next spring. They seemingly all hatched, but left for the west before breakfast.

The winter of 1873-74 found the necessities of life rather scant, many children without shoes and a scarcity of other clothing. I chanced to be at the home of a good-sized family at meal time. When dinner was announced the children rushed to the table and stood up as there were no chairs. In less than two minutes the table was bare, save the dishes. My father wrote to friends in Vermont stating conditions. They immediately sent money and a notice that two boxes of goods were on the way.

With the money he bought a lot of flour, a barrel of beans, a barrel of molasses, and saved \$10 to pay freight on boxes. Our company was in evidence while the provisions lasted. When the boxes came they were bunkers the freight was \$30. So we had to dig out of our not to well filled pockets \$20 more. We had company early and late and soon the boxes were empty. The following year we raised a bountiful crop and all were happy.

We sometimes ate dinner with Asa Whitney, and they had honest to goodness silver knives and forks. We felt as important as the Queen of Sheba.

The Indians used to surprise us with their visits occasionally. They were not hostile but inveterate beggars. To a neighbor one said, "give a poor Indian some hoggy meat." I have no hoggy meat to give you, I buy my hoggy meat. "You buy hoggy meat? Me sell you hoggy meat." He had quite an eye to business. An Indian died at our house. We sewed him up in his blanket and buried him with his head to the east so he would come up on his feet with the sun in the happy hunting ground.

We finally proved up on our claims and mortgaged them to get rich quick. The sequel is easily guessed. We lived happily anyway, and are proud citizens of the United States. (Warren Miller married Mary Stines, also of the Turkey Creek area, before he moved to Oregon.)

## THE GREAT DROUTH OF 1860 —

We have read many accounts of the drouth that covered Woodson County and surrounding counties during the time that a great many pioneers and early settlers were struggling to squeeze a living out of the prairies and grassland along the creek bottoms. This article of the great drouth we will take from the diary and writings of Judge Charles B. Graves, who as a young man of 18 years told of what life during those dry years was like in Woodson County:

"We moved down during the month of October, (from the Kaw Valley), and were caught in a hard rain near Burlington. At this time the streams were running and the weather was beautiful: there was no more rain which would effect the streams in the least, or which was worthy of the name until January, 1861, about fifteen months later.

The John Witchel family and the Pusey Graves family, eleven in all moved into this log cabin eleven by eleven feet square. During the winter of 1859-60 these people cut and hauled logs to build a cabin 16 by 18 feet with a lean-to for a kitchen and bedroom.

They broke out all the land they could, planted sod corn. If the weather had been seasonable we would have been on the high wave of prosperity. After the crops were all in and no rain came we hauled and carried water from the creek nearby (Duck Creek), and watered our garden expecting rain every day. But it did not come. We waited and watched, every little cloud that appeared was hailed with delight and hope. Occasionally there would appear a cloud, lightning and thunder and wind with every appearance of a storm; but after a short blow the clear sky appeared again without any rain except sometimes a few drops that could be counted in the dust. Disappointment succeeded disappointment. Hope was succeeded with despair.

Our crops came on strong and vigorous and promised a bountiful yield, but the corn soon stopped growing and the blades rolled up in the sun. For some time they would open up in the night and rolled up again the next day but finally the blades were permanently closed. The sky assumed a brassy appearance each evening and the clearness and brightness of the sun was almost blinding. The prairie grass ceased to grow and when from four to six inches high, dried up and seemed like cured hay.

The creek upon which we were located ceased to run early in the spring and the holes rapidly dried up until in July there was not a drop of water in it from head to mouth. Even the Sycamore trees standing on the banks of the creek died for want of moisture. On the seventh day of July the hot winds

began to blow and it continued three days. It is impossible to convey any conception of these winds to one who never felt the like. The stock ran to the trees for shelter as they would from a blizzard. I had been barefoot all season, could walk over the prairie, gravel and rocks with no discomfort but the heat made it impossible for me to walk on the bare ground or stand on an exposed rock. Some people who tried it said that a stone fairly exposed to the sun would get hot enough to cook the white of an egg; I did not see it tried, but I never doubted the story.

We in common with our neighbors put forth every effort to raise a crop this year could do nothing but stand by and watch it wither in the hot sun. Some of our near neighbors, all but one who was a bachelor left (Herman Grosbeck) for other places where there was work to do and returned in the Spring.

We had an old cow that gave an abundance of milk, not very rich, but we did not care to make butter; we also had four horses, that must be carried through the winter or we would have nothing to farm with next year. We carefully cut up all our corn short as it was for fodder Sorghum is a great plant to grow in dry weather. Ours had grown considerably and had considerable sap in it. We cut that and father went to the woods and cut down trees about the right size for rollers and made a mill to grind it on. We made considerable of fairly passable molasses, far better than the community pumpkin molasses that I was compelled to eat some years before on Cabin Creek, (Indiana). The mill did not press the cane very dry and we had four small pigs that ate it and seemed to thrive, and as we thought we had found a way to winter them but they finally died.

While cutting corn after the sorghum mill was finished father cut his knee cap and was crippled for a long time. I, in company with our bachelor neighbor went about fourteen miles away to some ravines where there seemed to have had more rain than we did and the grass was fairly well grown and we cut with scythes and stacked up several tons of hay, which just before we got ready to haul it home was burned down by a prairie fire which proved to be of sufficient force to break over our fire guards.

We found some shorter grass nearer home and finally got two smaller stacks closer home. We had a well at home which afforded plenty of water until after the hot winds when it got so low that I climbed down in it on the wall and cleaned it out and dug a hole in the bottom into which there trickled from above a small amount of fairly good water. We took an oyster can, tied a string to it and with this we could get enough water for drinking.

# DANCE

## — For Victory —

The American Legion sponsors a street dance  
**SATURDAY NIGHT IN YATES CENTER**  
**FUN - FROLIC - FOR EVERYBODY**

The long awaited STREET DANCE in the interests of the September "Salute to our Heroes" bond drive will take place Saturday night in Yates Center on the pavement south of the Klein building. The American Legion is making all of the arrangements. Good music will be provided, including some of the expert Fiddlers of the county for the old timers.

**Square Dances, Round Dances, Old Time Dances**  
**Modern Dances, Clog Dances, Hoe Downs,**  
**Black Bottom, Congo, Waltzes**  
**PICK YOUR FAVORITE**

Each dance will cost a 10c War Stamp. A booth will be convenient where you can buy your stamps and receive dance tickets. Bonds will also be available at the booth. If you buy a bond you have a dance dedicated to a boy in service. This dedication over the loud speaker system.

**- Bargain Bond Sale at the Legion Booth -**  
**\$25.00 United States Bond, only \$18.75**  
**The best buy in town**

**COME TO YATES CENTER SATURDAY EVENING.** Help the American Legion make their Bond drive the biggest ever. If you don't care to dance you can play Bingo. The Legion will have a bingo game in the Klein building. It costs a 10c War Stamp to play.

You can dance or play bingo Saturday night for a 10c War Stamp and every time you do, you are helping to buy shells, some for the Japs and more for Hitler.

**HOW MANY ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION WILL WOODSON COUNTY  
 SEND IT'S BOYS SATURDAY?**

### WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

The Girl Scouts will conduct a White Elephant Auction at the Band Stand before the dance. Much valuable merchandise will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. This is the way it works: Mr. Vaughn will be the auctioneer. You make your bid and if it is sold to you, you buy stamps to the amount of your bid and get not only the article you bought, but also the stamps

**YOU CAN'T LOSE. YOU GET WHAT YOU BUY. ALSO  
 YOUR MONEY BACK IN THE FORM OF STAMPS.  
 EVERYBODY WINS, EXCEPT THE JAPS AND HITLER**  
 (This space donated to the cause by the Yates Center News)

On Monday, Dr. Bacon performed an operation on Mr. John Babione. It appears that a cartridge exploded while loading a single-barreled pistol sometime in February, the cartridge flew back, burying itself in his neck directly over the right carotid artery and pressing on the artery. Babione had seen some physician about it and they had advised him not to have it removed on account of chance of hemorrhage. At last he thought he could stand it no longer and appealed to Dr. Bacon who removed it in less than five minutes. Babione got on his pony and went home rejoicing, carrying the cartridge, No. 38 in his pocket.

\* \* \* \* \*

The cover picture is one of the old Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church. The first church was dedicated at Vernon on Easter Sunday, April 14, 1895. Just a month and a day after the dedication the church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The engineer on train No. 223 saw the fire and gave the alarm, but nothing could be saved. Plans for the erection of another church was immediately started. On September 7, 1895, just one year after the first church class was organized, the second church was dedicated. Rev. J.W. Wright, preached at the 11 a.m. service. The afternoon service was prevented by a severe electric storm.

The people of Vernon sheltered and fed the large congregation that had come for the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. J.N. Shannon took care of about 50 people. At 9 p.m. Shannon's spacious dining room was converted into an audience chamber and Dr. Wright preached. Everyone stayed all night at Vernon. The Murry house was struck by lightning, shocking several persons severely.

The church has been abandoned for quite a few years except to have baled hay stored in it. The cupola was destroyed by a wind storm several years ago. The old church building has been purchased by Joe and Bonnie Greer, and who have been in the process of remodeling the building. The cupola will be rebuilt as near as possible as the original one was.

Mr. and Mrs. Greer and son Joe live in a mobile home nearby. An architect has been consulted and the cupola will be built as near like the old one as possible.

When finished the old church will be the residence of the Greer family.



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — 1882 - 1982.

The First Baptist Church of Yates Center held its 100th Anniversary in due style on Sunday, August 22, 1982. On August 1, 1882, fifteen charter members met in Methodist Episcopal building and organized the First Baptist Church of Yates Center, Kansas. The fifteen were William Wamsley, Anna Wamsley, Caleb Wamsley, Asa Whitney, Lydia Whitney, Margaret Marion, Homer Lyman, Anna Lyman, M.C. Elliott, Harriet Elliot, Charles Winters, Clarissa Stephenson, Mary Lossing, Louise Lossing, and Ernest Lossing. Some of these delegates were from the Iola-Bethel and Turkey Creek churches. The Turkey Creek Baptist was first organized in 1859, by Asa Whitney and wife Lydia, and church was held first in a log cabin, along Turkey Creek and later was held in the Byron School Dist. No. 1.

The First Baptist Church was formally recognized on August 22, 1882, becoming a part of the Neosho Valley Association. During the following year occasional meeting were held in homes for awhile and in the Christian Church. Asa Whitney and William Wamsley were chosen as deacons in the new church. The first pastor, Rev. G.W. Melton was called September 1, 1883, at half time for \$600.00 per year.

Plans were made by the congregation for the building of a church on the corner of Butler and Green streets. The corner stone was being layed with "public services" at 6 p.m., July 10, 1884. At the time it was built it was perhaps the largest church building in town. A large bell was placed in the belfry. (This bell was later given the Woodson County Historical Society and was placed on a cement platform in front of the Museum).

November 22, 1970, the members of the First Baptist Church voted to buy the church building of the Yates Center First Methodist Church, as that group consolidated with the Zion Methodist, into the United Methodist Church. Soon after this the members of the First Baptist Church moved into their quarters.

A fine program was held all day Sunday. There was one sad note in the program - Mrs. Bertha Pickering, the oldest active member in number of years, had been chosen for the "Queen for a Day", was unable to attend because of the death of her husband, George Pickering, on Friday, August 20. He was 88 years old.

During the past few years several members of this church have entered the ministry - Elvin Blackmore, Charles Hines, John Reed, Jerry Vadnais, Jim Vadnais, Keith Morrow,

Deacons

- 1882 -  
Asa Whitney  
William Wamsley

-1982-  
Gene Hatch - Russell Bishop  
William J. Kester - Garold Gilkerson

## PIQUA CELEBRATES 100 ANNIVERSARY AS A TOWN —

After six months of preparation, the townsfolks of Piqua celebrated their town's Centennial in grand style on Saturday and Sunday, August 14 and 15.

Piqua was founded on March 16, 1882, as a depot was built to serve both the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas, (Katy) Railroad, that ran north and south and the new railroad at that time called the St. Louis, Fort Scott and Wichita Western Railroad, running east and west across Woodson County. The superintendent of construction was from Piqua, Ohio, and so gave the new junction, the name of Piqua, Kansas. The first dwelling in the new junction was a house for the new section boss, Patrick O'Donnell and his family.

The depot at the junction of the two railroads was soon joined by business places as the little town blossomed into a busy, bustling community, with many business stores and business places.

The celebration started on Saturday with a dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall that night. Sunday was the big day for Piqua, starting off with a 10:30 Mass at the Saint Martins Church, and ending with a talent show that night following the Chuck Wagon supper at the Hall at which around 1200 were served.

The Centennial parade following the basket dinner was really enjoyed by a large crowd. We do not know just how many entries there were but this was a fine parade.

The Grand Marshal riding in the Gaulding 1939 Ford rumble seat was 94 year old G. C. Kuestersteffen, who thoroughly enjoyed himself and was worthy of the honor of being the Grand Marshal. Mr. Kuestersteffen still lives on the farm he was born on 94 years ago, three miles south of Piqua.

The lady riding in the seat with the driver was Mrs. Frances Riley, widow of the late Wm. J. Riley for many years a well-known auctioneer in that area. Mrs. Riley is a native of Piqua, and has lived her 90 years there.

At one time four passenger and four freight trains made daily stops there, a post office, general store, blacksmith shop, two hotels (one with a livery stable), schools, a mill, at least two churches. At the present time there are two grain elevators, The Farmer's Co-op, with its supply store that now sells some things along the grocery line since the Nieman store was destroyed by tornado 1982, Piqua Grain Elevator, post office, tavern, and a restaurant. The Piqua State Bank, The St. Martin's Catholic Church that around 400 attended on the Sunday morning. This church is quite a landmark with its large cross being visible for many miles around.



**G.C. Kuestersteffen, as Grand Marshall, wearing his father's top hat and waving his cane. With Bernard Gaulding in the front seat is Mrs. Frances Riley, evidently at 90 years old is the second oldest in the town.**



**The float - "Days Gone By" attracted quite a lot of attention as did many other floats in the parade. In the front of this float was Agnes (Mrs. Leo) Collins. Next was Maude (Mrs. Lawrence) George, and Mildred (Mrs. V.J. Link)**

## PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL HAS CENTENNIAL —

Along U.S.-75, about six miles south of Yates Center stands a native sandstone schoolhouse that has been standing there for the past 100 years. To celebrate the Centennial of the building the Three-in-One 4-H hosted an Open House, Sunday afternoon August 29, 1982. The schoolhouse was built in 1882 and continued in the tradition of one room schoolhouses until it closed its doors in 1952. The 4-H club used it as a clubroom before closing and still does. Known first as the "Brush" School, Dist. 18, had its beginning in 1867, when the district was organized. The first school in this district was held in the home of Alva Brush, Sr., a mile and quarter due north of the stone building. As the need arose for a new schoolhouse, undressed lumber was purchased and a Mr. Perry who lived about two miles to the east dressed and planed the lumber as the building was put up. This schoolhouse was soon not appropriate for the number of pupils so the stone building was built just 100 years ago.

The Centennial Day celebration brought a large number of former pupils and teachers, along with other families. There were around 150 present, including the 4-H members whose names were not on the register. There were nine former teachers present. The picture is of former students.



Back Row: L to R; Nelson Pringle, Royce Saubers, Joyce Saubers Wagner; Fourth Row: Lauren Pringle, Naomi Orbin Condit, Albert Eugene Hall, Jake Saubers; Third Row: Dick Pringle, Margaret Orbin Bennington, Margaret Hall Raymond, Anna Hall Waldron, Glenn Hamlet; Second Row: Marcella Orbin Wrampe, Ula Brown Theobald, Lorraine Awalt Barr, Lola Moss Saubers; Front Row: Volney Woodside, Margaret White Wilson, Robena Pringle, Elsie Brown Keen, Guy McKinsey, Lawrence Perry; Not Pictured: Robert Brown.

# **PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

Brown's Western Auto	Gaulding Oil Co.
Milton & Virginia Schornick	Donald E. Ward
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand	Clyde Hill
John V. Glades Agency	Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell
Street Abstract Co., Inc.	Edwin H. Bideau Assoc.
State Exchange Bank	Agencies-Chanute
Self Service Grocery	First National Bank-Toronto
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods	Hi-Way Food Basket
Piqua Farmer Coop	Atkin Clinic
Morton Equipment Co.	Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.
Swope & Son Implement Co.	Yates Center Elevator
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.	Jaspers Shopping Spot
The Herring Families	Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent
Artex Manufacturing Co.	Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
J. C. Schnell	Jaynes Insurance Agency
Gambles Hardware &	Daly Western Supply
Home Furnishings	Linde Barber Shop
Wilma Mark	Campbell Plmg. & Electric
Yates Center News	Glen Shaw
Pringle Ranch -	Milton & Marcella Wrampe
J. Richard Pringle	Elmer E. Light
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy	Loren & Rita Cantrell
Campbell Funeral Home	Al's Jewelry
Glen & Zola Baker	Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis
Piqua State Bank	Rex Butler, Nashville, TN
Thomas Wilson	Ken Kimbell
Bill Herman	Steiner's Sundries
Kenneth & Mabelle Ferree	
C. L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews	

